

II. Amendments

In the Claims

Please cancel pending claims 1–2 and 19–34 without prejudice to reintroduction of the claims in a separate application. Please insert new claims 35–52.

In accordance with the Revised Amendment Practice, the following is a complete listing of all claims in the application. After each claim number, the status is indicated in a parenthetical expression. The text of each pending claim is presented.

Claims 1–34 (canceled).

Claim 35. (new) A method for generating a mark in the top coating of paper substrates that is not visible within the substrate, said method comprising the step of treating the surface of at least one layer positioned below the top coating with laser energy prior to application of the top coating, wherein the top coating of the paper substrate is opaque and selected from at least one printing and/or at least one paint coating and/or at least one metal coating.

Claim 36. (new) The method according to claim 35, characterized in that a coating is provided immediately below the top coating.

Claim 37. (new) The method according to claim 35, characterized in that the paper substrate is selected from the group consisting of a fibrous web, a surface-treated fibrous web, a coated fibrous web which is treated with laser energy at its surface.

Claim 38. (new) The method according to claim 37, characterized in that said surface-treated fibrous web is coated with a coating selected from the group consisting of unpigmented, white and color pigmented coatings.

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Claim 39. (new) The method according to claim 37, characterized in that the surface of the fibrous web is treated with laser energy, and at least one further coating which is selected from the group consisting of printing, paint coating and metal coating is applied to the surface which has been treated with laser energy.

Claim 40. (new) The method according to claim 37, characterized in that the surface of the fibrous web is treated with laser energy, the surface treated with laser energy is metal-coated, and then a coating selected from the group consisting of printing and paint coating is applied to the metal-coated surface.

Claim 41. (new) The method according to claim 37, characterized in that the metal-coated surface of the fibrous web is treated with laser energy, and then a coating selected from the group consisting of printing and paint coating is applied to the surface which has been treated with laser energy.

Claim 42. (new) The method according to claim 37, characterized in that the surface of the fibrous web which is provided with a coating selected from the group consisting of unpigmented, white or color pigmented coatings is treated with laser energy, and then a coating selected from the group consisting of printing and paint coating is applied to the surface which has been treated with laser energy.

Claim 43. (new) The method according to claim 37, characterized in that the surface of the fibrous web which is provided with a coating selected from the group consisting of unpigmented, white and color pigmented coatings is treated with laser energy, the surface treated with laser energy is metal-coated, and then a coating selected from the group consisting of printing and paint coating is applied to the metal coated surface.

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Claim 44. (new) The method according to claim 37, characterized in that the surface of the fibrous web which is provided with a coating selected from the group consisting of unpigmented, white or color pigmented coatings is treated with laser energy, the surface treated with laser energy is copper-coated, and then a coating selected from the group consisting of printing and paint coating is applied to the copper-coated surface.

Claim 45. (new) The method according to claim 37, characterized in that the surface of the fibrous web is treated with laser energy, the surface treated with laser energy is provided with a coating selected from the group consisting of unpigmented, white or color pigmented coatings, and then a coating selected from the group consisting of printing and paint coating is applied.

Claim 46. (new) The method according to claim 37, characterized in that said fibrous web is transparent, opaque, white or colored.

Claim 47. (new) The method according to claim 37, characterized in that said coating of the fibrous web is an unpigmented, white or color pigmented coating.

Claim 48. (new) The method according to claim 35, characterized in that said metal coating is selected from the group consisting of copper, aluminum, gold and silver.

Claim 49. (new) The method according to claim 35, characterized in that said mark is selected from the group consisting of a logotype, a name, a trade mark, an image or a safety marking.

Claim 50. (new) The method according to claim 35, characterized in that said mark is a logotype.

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Claim 51. (new) The method according to claim 35, characterized in that said paper substrate has a basis weight of from 40 to 400 g/m².

Claim 52. (new) A marked paper product, obtainable by a method according to claim 35.